Indigenous peoples and other rural or remote populations often bear the social and environmental cost of extractive industries while obtaining little of the wealth they generate. Recent developments in national and international recognition of Indigenous rights offer the prospect that for Indigenous peoples at least their former economic and social marginalisation may be reduced. A case study of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) development in the Kimberley region of Western Australia shows that these changes are indeed creating opportunities to shape the local impacts of extractive industries. It also illustrates that effective political mobilization by Indigenous peoples is essential if they are to grasp these opportunities, especially as growing pressures to expand extractive industries across the globe increase demands for access to Indigenous lands. Recent Indigenous experience holds implications for theory on the regional political economy of extractive industries and lessons for other rural and remote populations.

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